



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

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PM to meditate at Vivekananda Rock Memorial

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kanniyakumari / Chennai

AFTER an intense and prolonged campaign for the Lok Sabha elections and ahead of the results, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will delve deep into meditation at the 'dhyana mandapam' of the Vivekananda Rock Memorial located on a rock around 400 metres off the Kanniyakumari coast for over 45 hours from Thursday evening. The rock is surrounded by the Laccadive Sea where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Sea meet.

Sources said that PM will meditate day and night at the same spot where Swami Vivekananda is believed to have meditated over a century ago.

The prime minister is expected to start his meditation on the evening of May 30 and conclude it on June 1 evening.

The PM is known to go on spiritual retreats at the end of his poll campaigns. In 2019, he had went to Kedarnath and in 2014, he had visited Pratappgarh, where a battle was fought between Maratha forces led by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Bijapur troops led by Afzal Khan.

In view of the PM's visit, security has been beefed up in Kanniyakumari. According to his tentative tour programme, the PM would leave from Thiruvananthapuram airport on May 30 (Thursday) at 3.55 pm in a helicopter and arrive at Kanniyakumari helipad at 4.35 pm.

Cyclone Remal wreaks havoc, kills 31 in N-E

Multiple landslides take Mizoram toll to 27

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
@Guwahati

CYCLONE Remal wreaked havoc in parts of the North-east on Tuesday, killing at least 31 people in Mizoram, Meghalaya and Assam. The rains, which were accompanied by gusty winds, uprooted trees, electric poles, triggered landslides and disrupted power and internet services. There is no power in parts Assam and Mizoram since Monday midnight.

With 27 confirmed deaths in four landslides, Mizoram was the worst affected. Locals said there had been a series of incidents of landslides and the toll could go up further.

Fourteen people were killed when a stone quarry collapsed at a place between Melthum and Hlumen on the outskirts of the state capital Aizawl. Five locals and 2-3 non-locals were reported missing after the collapse.

Landslides elsewhere killed 13 people — Hlumen (4), Salem (3), Falkawn (2), Lungsei (1), Kelsih (1) and Aibawk (2). The state government said it would be difficult to say how many people were missing after the incidents.

Aizawl and its surrounding areas are vulnerable to land-



The car that was damaged after a shed fell on it following Cyclone Remal's landfall in Guwahati | PTI

slides, primarily because of "loose" soil, the locals said.

Chief Minister Lalduhoma announced ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh each for the next of kin of those who died. The state government had ordered the closure of all government offices on Tuesday except those rendering essential services.

Three persons were killed in Assam and one in Meghalaya. A wall collapsed in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya, killing one person. Four others were injured in a landslide in the district. In Assam, the deaths occurred in Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro) and Morigaon districts.

T20 World Cup ticket for even India-Pak match still available

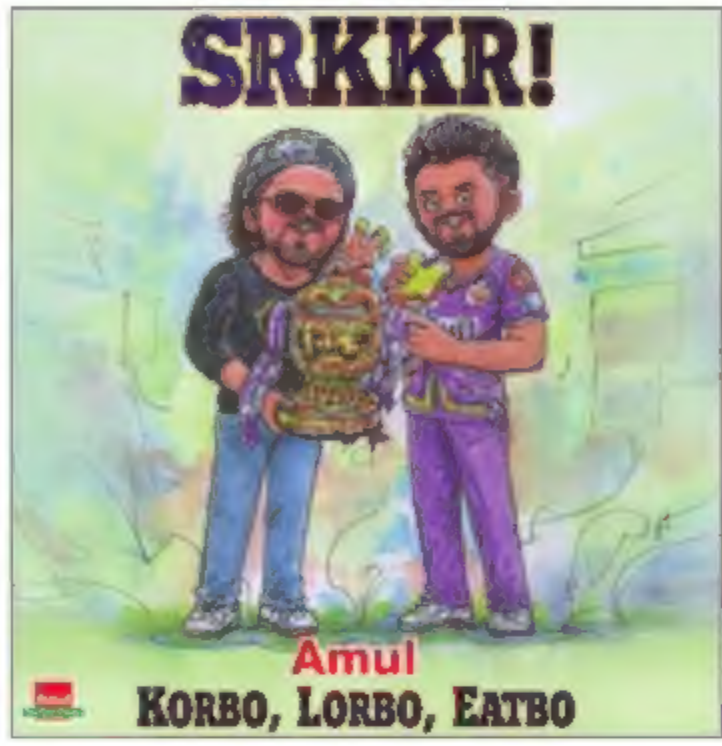
SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) may have a new problem in their hands. There are only three days to go for the opening night of the T20 World Cup — one of the governing body's flagship white-ball properties — but a lot of tickets are still up for grabs. While the ICC, in a statement in March, said that "more than three million ticket applications were received during the ballot", tickets for all games are still available on the official website. This includes the India vs Pakistan match, scheduled to be played at the Nassau County Inter-

national Cricket Stadium in New York on Sunday.

While the cheapest tickets for that match have been sold out (\$300 if you are wondering), packages worth an eye-popping \$10,000 (₹8.3 lakh) have not found many takers. The perks for this ticket includes free parking, pitch report 15 minutes before the start of the game as well as a private champagne with lunch while taking part in an analysis of the game by a cricketing legend. Most of the tickets for other ties, too, are yet to find takers. Not just India's, even tickets for the Australia versus England match are available.

PIS



EXPRESS READ

ECI suspends special secretary in Odisha CMO

Bhubaneswar: The Election Commission of India on Tuesday suspended ADG-ranked IPS officer D S Kutey, who served as the Special Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister's Office for interfering with the ongoing elections. The poll body said the action was aimed at maintaining a level playing field and ensuring fairness in the poll process | PS

Pak 'violated' 1999 Lahore deal with India: Sharif

Lahore: Former Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday admitted that Islamabad had "violated" the 1999 Lahore Declaration with India. The agreement that talked about a vision of peace and stability between the two countries signalled a major breakthrough, but a few months later Pakistani intrusion in Jammu & Kashmir led to the Kargil War.

'Corruption in ST Corpn forced hubby to end life'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Shivamogga

FAMILY members of Chandrashekharam, superintendent of Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Corporation Limited (KM-VSTCL), who ended his life in Shivamogga on Sunday, have demanded that the state government conduct a thorough investigation into the alleged misappropriation of funds in the corporation and act against the three officials named in the suicide note.

Chandrashekharam's wife Kavitha told reporters on Tuesday that her husband was an honest worker and he was forced to take the extreme step because of corruption in the corporation.

Refuting the allegation of corruption against her husband, Kavitha said the government has ordered a CID probe into the case. The CID should conduct a detailed investigation and ensure justice to her family, she added.

Even she works as a daily wage computer operator at the office of the Department for Empowerment of Differently Aabled and Senior Citizens in Shivamogga.

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CID STARTS PROBE

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) started an investigation into the suicide of Chandrashekharam. A CID team visited his house in Shivamogga and collected information from his family members.

3 of Koppal family found dead, cops suspect suicide

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

THREE members of a family were found dead in a house at Hosangapur village in Koppal district on Tuesday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Rameshwari, 50, her daughter Vasanta, 32, and grandson Saidharmateja, 5.

Police suspect it to be a case of suicide. Vasanta's husband Arif is absconding. The postmortem report will reveal the cause of their death. "We have recorded the statements of the relatives of the deceased. A search is on for Arif," a police officer said.

When Rameshwari and Vasanta did not answer any phone calls on Monday, their relatives went home and saw all three dead. CONTINUED ON: P5

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